

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- The present application is a continuation of application Serial No. 10/112,865, filed April 2, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,708,252; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/335,175, filed July 17, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,446,161; which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/833,347, filed April 4, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,956,750, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

This application relates to a U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/824,308, filed March 27, 1999, now abandoned, entitled "STORAGE SYSTEM" by Akira YAMAMOTO et al., and assigned to the present assignee, based on Japanese Patent Application No. 8-72934, disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. --